

Documenting Bure (Nigeria)

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(siehe auch http://www.uni-koeln.de/gbs/Berichte/Batic_Bure.pdf für diesen Bericht)

Introduction

Bure [Bùbbùrè] is a moribund Afro-Asiatic language belonging to the West branch of the Chadic family (Bole-Tangale group, Bole proper). The language is spoken in the village of Bure (10°31'26.87"N 10°19'46.40"E, Kirfi Local Government, Bauchi State, Nigeria) by 20-40 speakers of great-grand parental generation. Bùbbùrè has been replaced by Hausa, the former vehicular language of the community. The outcome of the massive shift to Hausa is a(n almost) monolingual community, with no attachment to the dying language.

The fieldtrip sponsored by the *Gesellschaft für bedrohte Sprachen* aimed at collecting lexico-grammatical data for the compilation of a Bure-English-Hausa Dictionary. The material collected during the fieldwork is being analyzed.

Profile of endangerment / extinction

An assessment of vitality of Bùbbùrè is provided in table 1. The criteria are those adopted by the UNESCO Expert Group on Safeguarding Endangered Languages (Brenzinger et al. 2003).

The numbers in the grade row indicate to the safety of the language. They range from 0 (extinct/unactive) to 5 (safe/active).

Criteria (Brenzinger, Yamamoto et al. 2003)

1. **Intergenerational language transmission:**
Description: The language is used mostly by a very few speakers, of great-grandparental generation.
Status: critically endangered
Grade: 1
 2. **Absolute numbers of speakers:**
Description: 20-50 people
Grade: -
 3. **Proportion of speakers within the total population:**
Description: very few speak the language
Status: critically endangered
Grade: 1
 4. **Loss of existing language domains:**
Description: The language is used only in a very restricted set of domains and for a very few functions.
Status: highly limited domains
Grade: 1
 5. **Response to new domains and media:**
Description: The language is not used in any new domains.
Status: inactive
Grade: 0
 6. **Materials for language education and literacy:**
Description: No orthography available to the community
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	<i>Status:</i> inactive
	<i>Grade:</i> 0
7.	Governmental and institutional language attitudes and policies: <i>Description:</i> The dominant language is the sole official language, while non-dominant languages are neither recognized nor protected. <i>Status:</i> (forced?) assimilation <i>Grade:</i> 1
8.	Community members' attitudes towards their own language: <i>Description:</i> No one cares if the language is lost; all prefer to use a dominant language.
9.	<i>Grade:</i> 0
	Amount and quality of documentation: <i>Description:</i> no material exists <i>Status:</i> undocumented <i>Grade:</i> 0

Tab. 1: Profile of endangerment / extinction

The fieldtrip

The fieldtrip took place in the months of November and December, 2012. The list below summarizes the fieldtrip by considering the criteria proposed by David-Maybury Lewis (1968) to describe fieldwork experience:

Time spent in the field: 2 months (November-December, 2012)

Contact frequency: on daily basis

Ratio of time spent with the consultants: morning hours

Place of contact: Bure village

Number of consultants: 3-4 consultants (usually 2 consultants per session)

Community's attitude: The community has been positive and helpful. The Sarki and their families granted me full support. The elders of the village got enthusiastically involved in the project. Although not really caring about the linguistic loss, the community showed understanding and was sympathetic to my documentation work.

Contact language: Hausa

Equipment

The field equipment consisted of the following items: a digital recorder (Roland R-09HR), tripod, headphones, A4-sized workbooks, pencils, red and black pens. The software used to analyse and file the linguistic material included: Audacity 1.3 Beta (audio editing), PRAAT (audio analysis), Shoebox 4.0/Toolbox 5.0 (database compilation).

The grant

The 1071 € grant has been used to cover the following expenses: 1) flight tickets (770 €), 2) visa fee (100 €), and 3) donation to the elders of the village, 200 €

References

Brenzinger, Matthias, Akira Yamamoto, Noriko Aikawa, Dmitri Koundiوبا, Anahit Minasyan, Arienne Dwyer, Colette Grinevald, Michael Krauss, Osahito Miyaoka, Osamu Sakiyama, Rieks Smeets and Ofelia Zepeda. 2003. *Language vitality and endangerment*. Paris: UNESCO Expert Meeting on Safeguarding Endangered Languages.

Maybury-Lewis, David. 1968. *Akweà-Shavente society*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.